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§18–207.

- (a) The Commission and an employee organization certified as the exclusive representative shall meet and engage in collective bargaining in good faith regarding:
- (1) salary and wages, including the percentage of the increase in the salary and wages budget that will be devoted to merit increments and cash awards;
 - (2) pension and other retirement benefits for active employees;
- (3) employee benefits such as insurance, leave, holidays, and vacations;
 - (4) hours and working conditions;
- (5) provisions for the orderly processing and settlement of grievances concerning the interpretation and implementation of a collective bargaining agreement that may include:
 - (i) binding third party arbitration; and
 - (ii) provisions for the exclusivity of forum;
 - (6) matters affecting the health and safety of employees; and
- (7) the effect on employees of the exercise of the Commission's rights and responsibilities under § 18–211 of this subtitle.
- (b) This section does not require the Commission or the employee organization to agree to any proposal or to make any concession.
- (c) (1) (i) Collective bargaining may not begin later than September 1 before the beginning of a fiscal year for which an agreement has not been reached between the Commission and the certified representative.
- (ii) Collective bargaining shall finish on or before the following February 1.
- (2) During the period set in paragraph (1)(i) of this subsection, the parties shall negotiate in good faith.

- (d) Salaries and wages shall be uniform for all employees in the same classification.
- (e) The Commission and the employee organization shall share equally the costs of binding arbitration.
- (f) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, pension and other retirement benefits for active employees may not be subject to binding arbitration.
- (2) Collective bargaining regarding pension and other retirement benefits for active employees may not require the Commission to offer more than one pension plan to its employees.
- (3) If more than one employee organization is certified as an exclusive representative of a bargaining unit, the Commission shall engage in collective bargaining with all exclusive representatives at the same time about the terms of pension and other retirement benefits for active employees.

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